

### **3 Crabs Workgroup Kick-Off Meeting Summary**

#### **May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, Dungeness River Audubon River Center**

Joe Holtrop, Conservation District Manager, started the meeting with a brief history of the Conservation District's involvement in the project area. Clea Rome, Conservation District planner gave an overview of the project area and reviewed the ground rules of operation for workgroup.

The meeting was opened up for a discussion of what workgroup members felt were the key issues and priorities that this project should address. Several key themes emerged:

#### **Meadowbrook Creek Flooding**

Many property owners present strongly stressed that the flooding of Meadowbrook Creek was the key issue that needed to be addressed.

- Conversation centered around concerns about the flooding, activities that occurred in the past that may have affected the flooding such as fish enhancement projects and dredging, lack of enforcement around illegal activities, and the need for more information about shoreline dynamics in order to understand the reasons for and possible solutions to the flooding. Several members commented that the flooding issue should be a priority and that many people in the area will likely not be interested in focusing on other issues until they feel their concerns are being met.
- Several members of the workgroup cautioned against the perception that there is a simple solution to the flooding like removing woody debris from the mouth and reconnecting the mouth to the Dungeness River. They stressed the need for more information and education to landowners about the causes of the flooding from a geologic and ecosystem perspective.
- Kevin Farrell of the Department of Ecology commented that there may be implementation money available through DOE for flooding issues.
- It was recognized that both short term strategies for dealing with the flooding and long term goals need to be investigated.

#### **More Education and Outreach**

Many of the comments shared reflected a strong need for further education and outreach to the community, particularly to strengthen communication between agencies and property owners about the on-going work being done in the area. Other education and outreach topics included septic systems, landowner stewardship issues, and the natural history and ecosystem processes in the area.

#### **Further Investigation**

Several topics were suggested for further investigation including:

- Community septic systems, septic systems and water quality
- Fish passage, fish use and habitat limiting factors
- Irrigation
- Near-shore processes

After a recess, the group reconvened to talk about an effective structure for organization of the group and a course of action for the next month. The workgroup agreed that subgroups should be formed that will gather information and come up with recommendations to the larger group as necessary. The subgroups should have a mixture of agencies and property owners. It was agreed that there is an immediate need for a subgroup to deal specifically with the Meadowbrook

flooding issues. This subgroup will investigate both short term and long-term strategies for dealing with the flooding in the area.

It was decided to hold the first public workshop at the end of June, with the focus being to provide a historical and ecological context for the flooding issues on Meadowbrook Creek. Speakers suggested included Randy Johnson of WDFW, Jim Johannessen of Coastal Geologic Services, Inc., Brian Collins of University of Washington, and Hugh Shipman of the Department of Ecology. The public workshop format will be an open house structure at the beginning of the workshop where property owners can come to find out information about the various agencies' activities, followed by presentations from the speakers, and then possibly a session of structured workshop activities. The Conservation District will be responsible for arranging the speakers, setting up the workshop and publicizing it.

It was agreed that the next workgroup meeting should be held at the beginning of July, shortly after the public workshop. Clea Rome will identify a couple possible dates for the next workgroup meeting and email the group. The Meadowbrook flooding subcommittee will be formed at that meeting.

It was agreed that the Dungeness River Audubon Center is a suitable place to meet and that initially, the workgroup will plan on meeting once a month.

**Present:**

Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District  
Clea Rome, Clallam Conservation District  
Les Jones, Property Owner  
Matt Heins, Dungeness Farms Duck Club  
Bev and Roger Giervin, Property Owners  
Larry and Liz Phelps, Property Owners  
Kevin Farrell, Department of Ecology  
Ross Tyler, Clallam County Department of Public Works- Road Division  
Marge and Charlie Powers, Property Owners  
Paula Mackrow, North Olympic Salmon Coalition  
Cheryl Baumann, NOPE  
Donella Pratt, Clallam County Department of Community Development  
Don Hatler, Clallam Conservation District Supervisor  
Meghan Peacock, Clallam Conservation District  
Hansi Hals, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
John Cambalik, PSAT  
Randy Johnson, WDFW  
Gene and Betty Stahl, Property Owners  
Tighe Stuart, WDFW  
Steve Tharinger, Clallam County Commissioner  
John Willits, Property Owner  
Gary Hussey, Property Owner  
Tom and Georgia Davis, Property Owners  
Cynthia Nelson, Department of Ecology  
Anita McMillan, WDFW